

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The present amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance the case to issue without delay.

Claims 15-17 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being in improper form because of a multiple dependent claim.

Applicants have amended claim 15 to remove the multiple dependency.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants traverse this rejection.

In claim 1 the Examiner required clarification as to "C1-C4-alkylo-". This term refers to an alkoxy group such as methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy and butoxy. Anyone skilled in the art would well understand this nomenclature.

Further, the Examiner stated that when Y is 0 then  $-[C(R_6)_2]_y-$  is a unit that "does not exist". Applicants believe the Examiner is mistaken. Applicants do not believe there should be a problem because when this group is zeroed-out a bond joins the tertiary carbon bridge heads to which R3 and R4 respectively connect.

The Examiner considered claim 3 was unclear with respect to the meaning of

CO-C6-alkyl-phenol. In this moiety, the "C0" means a situation where there is no alkyl substitution of the phenol. Those skilled in the art would well understand this nomenclature.

A similar objection was raised with respect to claim 7. The moiety "3-C0-C6-alkyl" means that on the 3-position of the pyridine ring the number of carbons in the alkyl chain range from none up through 6 carbons. Those skilled in the art would well understand this nomenclature.

Claim 9 was rejected for lacking antecedent basis in claim 1 with regard to the ester group. Applicants have amended claim 1 replacing the "C4" with "C6" to achieve proper antecedent basis.

Claims 15-17 were rejected for lack of antecedent support in claim 1 with regard to the "complex". Applicants have amended claim 15 to replace "complex" with "transition metal catalyst".

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected because claim 1 was said not to be directed to a ligand but to a bleaching composition. Applicants have amended claim 18 to refer to a "bleaching composition" rather than the "ligand". It is believed this amendment overcomes the rejection.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Appel et al. (US Patent 6,518,231). Applicants traverse this rejection.

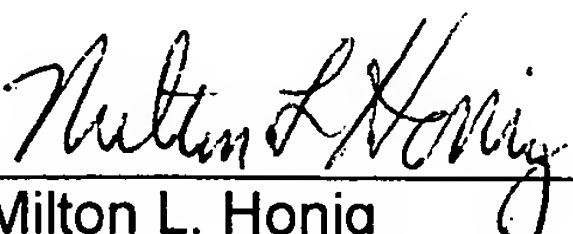
Appel et al. has an effective prior art date of December 11, 2001, the first filing date of the application resulting in the granted patent. Applicants in the present application claim priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to a British filing dated December 15, 2000. Accordingly, Appel et al. would not be a proper reference against the claims.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Appel et al. (US Patent 6,518,231). Applicants traverse this rejection.

As noted above, Appel et al. is not a proper prior art document against the present claims. Appel et al. has an effective date of December 11, 2001. By contrast, applicants claim benefit of a British filing with date of December 15, 2000.

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, applicants request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection and now allow the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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